

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for four Roll Call votes in the House on Friday, September 20, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 436, Motion to Recommit H.R. 5717; NAY on Roll Call No. 437, Passage of H.R. 5717; NAY on Roll Call No. 438, Passage of H.J. Res. 136; and YEA on Roll Call No. 439, Passage of H.R. 9106.

HONORING JAN MARTINSON

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize someone who has been an important part of the Phoenix West Valley for many years, Jan Martinson.

As former President of the Sun City West Republican Club and a longtime political activist, Jan has been instrumental to the success of the West Valley.

As a leader, Jan has been an advocate for educating community members on their civic duties and supporting Republicans and their beliefs. Jan's efforts have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and the State of Arizona.

I am thankful for Jan's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled medical procedure, I was unable to be in D.C. on Thursday, September 19, 2024, and on Friday, September 20, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 432, H.R. 3724, On motion to recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 433, H.R. 3724, the Accreditation for College Excellence Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 434, H.R. 4790, On motion to recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 435, H.R. 4790, the GUARDRAIL Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 436, H.R. 5717, On motion to recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 437, H.R. 5717, the Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 438, H.J. Res. 136, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted

by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Year 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles," and YEA on Roll Call No. 439, H.R. 9106, the Enhanced Presidential Security Act.

RECOGNIZING JAVIER CUEBAS

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the exemplary leadership and community service demonstrated by Javier Cuebas. He has dedicated over two decades to community advocacy, public service, and the empowerment of underrepresented voices. His advocacy and public service have earned him the prestigious Commitment to Service and Leadership Award from the Friends of Puerto Rico organization.

Mr. Cuebas served as the National Latino Advisor for President Biden's campaign during the 2020 election. He played a vital role in launching a comprehensive and culturally competent outreach campaign aimed at securing Puerto Rican votes. As chair of Grupo 21, Mr. Cuebas championed the increased diversity in the Federal Government's executive branch, presenting over 200 candidates to the current administration and mobilizing national support for Senate confirmations. His work has uplifted individuals who had not been included in the political process.

Throughout his career, Mr. Cuebas has advised various government agencies and non-profit organizations including the COVID response and the National Institute for Drug Abuse, helping to address issues ranging from Environmental Justice to treatment of migrants at the border. His portfolio is astonishing and always focuses on supporting people.

Javier Cuebas has contributed to so many through his work on Capitol Hill, assistance in three presidential elections, and his work as a bilingual spokesperson and political commentator. His work exemplifies the spirit of advocacy and commitment that uplifts our society. I want to say thank you to Mr. Cuebas and I look forward to his many future successes.

HONORING MY GRANDCHILDREN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, as my time in the U.S. House of Representatives is coming to an end, I want to recognize my grandchildren. After six years in Congress, I have decided to return home to Arizona to spend more time with my husband, my 95-year-old mother, my sister, my brother, my three chil-

dren, and my five grandchildren. I am very blessed that they all live within a 20-minute drive from my home.

My oldest grandchild, Jeremiah Stelp, age 14, loves to play football. He now plays on the high school football team. Jeremiah excels in school and helps his mom around the house.

Malachi Stelp, age 11, loves Anime and driving off-road on his quad. He also helps his mom with chores around the house.

Ellie Lesko, age 5, is so cute. She has blonde hair and rosy cheeks and loves everything about Spiderman, including toys, backpacks, shoes, and clothes.

Brandon Stelp, Jr., age 4, comes running up to me and hugs me with a big smile that melts my heart. He loves his mud trucks and has a great imagination.

Grace Stelp, age 2, loves wearing dresses, changes her clothes multiple times a day, has curly long locks of hair and has a feisty attitude.

After my son, Joey Lesko, marries Cherie Arel in October 2024, I will have an additional official granddaughter, Scarlett, who is Cherie's daughter. Scarlett is full of energy and life and I'm looking forward to her officially joining our family.

I have been blessed with a wonderful family. May God continue to bless each and every one of us for years to come.

HONORING PROFESSOR GREGORY KASTER

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Professor Gregory Lawrence Kaster. Professor Kaster was a beloved educator and community member, who left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

A Chicago Native, Professor Kaster attended Northern Illinois University in Park Forest, Illinois to earn his Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees, then earned his doctorate from Boston University. While there he met his best friend and soon to be wife, Kate Wittenstein, with whom he would have celebrated 40 years of marriage this fall.

Greg and Kate had a shared passion for Liberal Arts and lifelong dedication to making the world a better place. In 1986, they both became professors in the History Department at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Together they helped to develop the History Department into what it is today, and Professor Kaster would teach there for the rest of his life.

Professor Kaster had many teaching and research interests, including the history of labor, the 1960s, masculinity in America, abolitionism, the Civil War, dissent, and many more. In 2018, he received the Edgar M. Carlson Award—the College's highest teaching honor. He was also the inaugural holder of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

James and Patricia McPherson Endowed Professor of American History position from 2019 to 2023. Throughout his distinguished tenure, he was known as a trusted advocate, mentor, and friend to students and faculty alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Professor Kaster. His powerful legacy will live on through his loved ones and the generations of students whose lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT OF CENTRAL OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Korean, Vietnam, and WWII War Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who are visiting their memorials on the WWII Memorial through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon. When I have the opportunity to meet these heroes, I am reminded of President Ronald Reagan's words: "The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave." Our veterans embody this spirit, having fought valiantly in Korea, Vietnam, and WWII to preserve the freedoms we hold dear. Their courage and dedication REMIND us that the price of liberty is always worth paying. It is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: George Adams, Valton Albert, Donald Bemis, Michael Donnelly, Charles Hagadone, William Hagadone, Kenneth Hart, Joseph Hironaka, Joseph R. Hironaka, Robert Houk, Neil Hummel, Paul Lofland, Katherine Berg, Matthew Markovic, Kevin Maher, Melvin Mook, Kevin Krieger, Thomas O'Neil, Richard Patten, Robert Penney, James SantaMaria, Michael Shellito, Robert Smith, William Smith, Keith Elzner, Larry Stoke, Steven Strable, Robert Verlezza, Duane Whitehead. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, President Harry S. Truman once stated, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and every citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily faced danger and adversity to preserve our country and way of life. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARMEN CANTOR

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding service and

leadership of Assistant Secretary Carmen G. Cantor. With over three decades of commitment to public service, she has made significant contributions to U.S. territories and the international community as a whole. Her work as Assistant Secretary has earned the prestigious Commitment to Service and Leadership Award from the Friends of Puerto Rico organization.

Ms. Cantor's career has spanned across the federal government where she succeeded at every stop. She worked as an executive within multiple bureaus of the State Department. She also held significant positions such as Director of the Office of Civil Rights for the Foreign Agricultural Service and Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at the Federal Maritime Commission, where she championed equal rights and opportunities.

Currently, Ms. Cantor works as the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs. She carries out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for U.S. territories, administers federal assistance under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), and oversees international engagement, thereby advancing the Department of the Interior's mission and U.S. foreign policy.

Assistant Secretary Cantor was born in Puerto Rico and raised in the city of Mayagüez, she earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, embodying the values of education and perseverance.

I want to thank Assistant Secretary Cantor for her tremendous dedication to public service. I look forward to watching her continued success.

HONORING ALEXANDER KOLODIN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Representative Alexander Kolodin from Legislative District 3, covering the north and east valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Alexander is a phenomenal attorney and a staunch conservative. Since joining the Arizona Legislature in January 2023, Representative Kolodin has worked to influence and pass policies that benefit his constituents, while remaining absolutely true to his conservative values. He was extremely instrumental in helping the Rio Verde Foothills community regain a critical water supply in 2023, laboring across both sides of the aisle to find a successful solution.

Representative Kolodin has also sought to work on proposals to strengthen the state's election laws to help restore trust in our systems. He is a member of the Arizona Freedom Caucus, helping to ensure that conservative policies and processes are prioritized.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Representative Kolodin's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF-CORONER JIM HART

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary public servant for his superb service to the people of Santa Cruz County, California, Sheriff-Coroner Jim Hart.

A native of Scotts Valley, Jim Hart has served our community with the County Sheriff's office for 36 years, beginning as a Deputy in October, 1988. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1998; to Lieutenant in 2006; became Chief Deputy of Corrections in 2011; and was elected Sheriff-Coroner in 2014. On August 7, 2024, he announced that he will retire on December 6, 2024.

Sheriff Hart proclaims Santa Cruz County as a wonderful place to live and work and says he wouldn't trade his career as Sheriff for any other, calling it an honor and privilege to serve. During his tenure, his leadership brought us through many difficult times including the CZU Fire, the COVID-19 pandemic, the killing of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller and the protests following the killing of George Floyd. He served at the onset of the fentanyl crisis and formed a team to respond to it, and he instituted community policing in the County, advocated for bail reform and supported immigrant communities.

When Sheriff Hart saw the U.S. Capitol being attacked on January 6, 2021, he called me to make sure I was safe, bringing me great comfort as I was hiding with colleagues on that fateful day. I will never forget his kind words.

Sheriff Hart and his wife Jackie are the proud parents of four children: Samantha, Elle, Nadene and Noah. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada-Reno and has been an adjunct faculty member at Cabrillo College and Bethany University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring this great man of enormous integrity and professionalism and wish him every blessing in his retirement. We are a better community and a stronger country because of Sheriff Hart's leadership, making him a national treasure.

CELEBRATING THE URBAN LEAGUE OF UNION COUNTY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate the Urban League of Union County on their 80th Anniversary. Since 1944, the Urban League has worked in Union County to assist African Americans and other underserved communities in achieving social and economic equality by providing education, housing, health services, and promoting economic self-reliance and civil rights. By working to ensure the success of individuals and families in Union County, the Urban League is truly working to